

Application No.: 10/607,667

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Claims 1-20 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-8, 11-20 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. (US Patent No. 6,014,680) in view of Howard et al. (US Patent No. 6,513,006). Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato and Howard in view of Kotsakis ("Structured Information Retrieval in XML Documents", Pub. Date: 2002). The Examiner cited Sato for disclosing a method for converting a document of a particular format type into a structured document including parsing the generic document containing content into a plurality of content elements. The Examiner cited Howard for disclosing for a selected content element, suggesting an optimal tag according to a tag suggesting procedure. Applicants respectfully disagree.

A. Independent Claim 1 is directed to method for converting a generic document into a structured document which suggests optimal tags to the user.

Claim 1, is directed to a method for converting a generic document, wherein a generic document comprises a document in a particular format type, into a structured document, wherein a structured document includes a plurality of content elements wrapped in pairs of hierarchically nested tags, comprising: parsing the generic document of the particular format type containing content into a plurality of content elements; and for a selected content element, suggesting an optimal tag according to a tag suggestion procedure; wherein the tag suggestion procedure comprises: providing sample data in the form of structured sample documents; analyzing patterns in the sample data to derive a set of tag suggestions and tag suggestion rules; deriving a set of candidate tags from the set of tag suggestions for the selected content element in accordance with the tag suggestion rules; and evaluating the set of candidate tags according to tag suggestion criteria to determine an optimal tag for the selected content element.

Howard does not teach generation of a structured document; Howard teaches generating a search result to a natural language search request.

Howard uses speech recognition and natural language parsing components to extract the meaning of a user's spoken input to request information from an electronic activity guide. A

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parser identifies key words in the user's input request (col. 5, lines 20-22) and uses them to find an appropriate response from the electronic activity guide (col. 5, lines 28-31). Howard does not appear to be even concerned with structured documents at all. A structured document includes a plurality of content elements wrapped in pairs of hierarchically nested tags. The tags noted in Howard do not even appear to be structural elements, rather Howard's tags are short hand for "topics" and do not appear in pairs. In Howard, tags may include, in the home entertainment application, movie names, category of movie, producers, names of actors and actresses (see col. 8, lines 50-57).

Howard uses existing grammars (i.e., DTDs) to generate tags.

Howard uses existing grammars, such as a context-sensitive LR (left-right and rightmost derivation) grammar (see col. 8, lines 24-25), to generate tags for the various topics in the input sentence. Applicants' unique tag suggestion procedure includes learning from sample structured documents. Howard does not teach or suggest "wherein the tag suggestion procedure comprises: providing sample data in the form of structured sample documents; analyzing patterns in the sample data to derive a set of tag suggestions and tag suggestion rules".

None of Sato, Howard or Kotsakis, whether taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests Applicants' method of converting a generic document into a structured document.

B. Independent Claim 11 is directed to a method for authoring of a structured document which suggests content fragments to the user.

Claim 11 is directed to a method for authoring of a structured document, wherein a structured document comprises a plurality of content elements wrapped in pairs of tags, comprising: generating content elements wrapped in pairs of tags; and for a selected tag, suggesting an optimal content fragment according to a content suggestion procedure; wherein the content suggestion procedure comprises: providing a plurality of sample structured documents; analyzing the sample structured documents for content fragments; deriving a set of content fragments from the sample structured document associated with the selected tag; evaluating the set of content fragments according to a content fragment suggestion criteria to determine an optimal content fragment suggestion for the tag, wherein the optimal content fragment suggestion

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is the most probable content fragment for the selected tag.

Howard does not teach authoring a structured document; Howard teaches generating a search result to a natural language search request.

Howard uses speech recognition and natural language parsing components to extract the meaning of a user's spoken input to request information from an electronic activity guide. A parser identifies key words in the user's input request (col. 5, lines 20-22) and uses them to find an appropriate response from the electronic activity guide (col. 5, lines 28-31). Howard does not appear to be even concerned with structured documents at all. A structured document includes a plurality of content elements wrapped in pairs of hierarchically nested tags. The tags noted in Howard do not even appear to be structural elements, rather Howard's tags are short hand for "topics" and do not appear in pairs. In Howard, tags may include, in the home entertainment application, movie names, category of movie, producers, names of actors and actresses (see col. 8, lines 50-57).

Howard does not teach "generating content elements wrapped in pairs of tags"; Howard teaches only single tags (topics).

Howard does not teach or suggest a content suggestion procedure comprising "providing a plurality of sample structured documents; analyzing the sample structured documents for content fragments; deriving a set of content fragments from the sample structured document associated with the selected tag; evaluating the set of content fragments according to a content fragment suggestion criteria to determine an optimal content fragment suggestion for the tag".

None of Sato, Howard or Kotsakis, whether taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests Applicants' method of authoring a structured document.

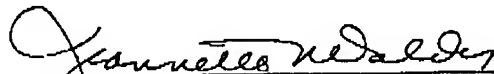
Claims 1 and 11 are believed to be patentable over the references cited. Since Claims 2-10, and 20 depend from Claim 1 and Claims 12-19 depend from Claim 11, they are also believed to be patentable.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment; however, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

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Reconsideration of this application and allowance thereof are earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner considers a personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned Attorney for Applicants, Jeannette Walder.

Respectfully submitted,



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Xerox Corporation  
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